Douglas, William

Dec 1915
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WILLIAM DOUGLAS R. J GIBSON
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BRANCH OFFICE: MARKHAM EVERY THURSDAY

TELEPHONE MAIN 2594

Toronto,
CANADA
December 9th, 1915.

R. A. Falconer, Esq.,
President, Toronto University,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

For some time past my two boys, who are in attendance at Toronto University, have been made to feel very sore on account of the repeated harangues of yourself and the various Professors, on account of the war situation.

In the first place, let me say to you that I have sent my boys to be educated at Toronto University for the benefit of their after life. I did not send them to a Military College. If I had so intended, I would not have sent them where I did send them, to Toronto University.

I am lame and physically unable to walk two blocks and my boys, who know the situation fully and realize their duty to me and to their Mother and the rest of the family, have been obliged to forego the joining of the Colours. Notwith-

standing this, your addresses and the addresses of your confreres, without considering the circumstances, are a source of continual worry to my sons and myself.

I cannot quite understand why you, the President of the great University, should take upon yourself to be the Recruiting Officer in General for the young men that are sent to you from the various homes in the Province to be educated. I do not think that the position you have heretofore assumed warrants you in your present hysterical attitude of loyalty unless you have some ulterior motive in view.

As a loyal Canadian and one who has the confidence of many of your students who are unable, from force of circumstances, to don the Khaki, I ask you in all reason why you do not exercise the common sense that one would suppose the President of such a large University should have (but which evidently is a forgotten quantity in your makeup) and leave this matter to the boys and their parents who know the situation in each particular instance and are thoroughly competent to decide without your interference. My boys and

many other boys who are unable to go in the present situation have been characterized as "yellow" because of your statements and because of the statements of the Professors of Toronto University. There are many boys at present in attendance at Toronto University whose circumstances at home, and for other reasons, will not permit them to join the Colours, but without any discrimination you make it as hard for them as it is possible to be. This I cannot quite understand.

If you are so wonderfully loyal, as you profess, why don't you get into the Khaki yourself without hiding behind the Honourary-Colonel, which you assume, but which, from your harangues, does not bear out the fact that you have the manhood to warrant it. You are not too old to don the Khaki and it does seem to me that if your position as President is to be used to harangue boys in the way you have done in the past you would be of much more use in the ranks than you are as the President of the University.

Now, Mr. Falconer, you and those around you have stultified your position entirely as the Head of a great Institution and I intend to bring this matter to the attention of the Senate as I think you have gone beyond all the bounds of common decency.

You may publish this letter if you chose but I intend to take it up before the Senate.

Yours truly,

W. Douglas.

WD/W.